



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20210728-00527-ALT (Health Alert)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and Healthcare Providers – Statewide
Wednesday, July 28, 2021
SUBJECT: Mandatory Hospital Participation in Mississippi COVID-19 System of Care Plan And Delay of Elective Procedures

**STATE HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER
Mandatory Hospital Participation in Mississippi COVID-19 System of Care Plan
And Delay of Elective Procedures**

Pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. § 41-23-1 et. seq. and the State of Emergency Declaration by the Governor of the State of Mississippi related to the coronavirus COVID-19 issued on March 14, 2020, I, Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, State Health Officer, Executive Director of the Mississippi State Department of Health, hereby issue this statewide Order making participation in the Mississippi COVID-19 System of Care Plan mandatory for all licensed hospitals in Mississippi effective **July 29, 2021 until August 15, 2021**, unless revoked prior to that time, as follows:

Crisis Operations - Critical Care Services

As Mississippi has reached a point where hospitals can no longer accommodate acute clinical demands, Mississippi ESF-8 will enact a COVID-19 rotation to ensure the proper assignment of patients to the appropriate hospital.

- Transfers for critical care services that cannot be accommodated by the normal referral processes will be routed through ESF-8 Mississippi Med-Com. Sending facility should call Mississippi Med-Com at (601) 984-4367.
- All sending facilities must report to Med-Com all transfers requiring ICU level care, both COVID and Non-COVID.
- Mississippi Med-Com will direct patients to available beds, and, when no beds are available, to hospital destinations on a rotating basis based on geography and resource availability.
- Patients in Mississippi at level 4 hospitals in need of a higher level of care and critical care patients at level 2 and 3 hospitals that lack appropriate services to care for patients will be eligible for the rotational transfer process when necessary.
- All patients accepted by higher level facilities will be accepted by the ED physician.
- Provider to provider and nurse to nurse communications shall be maintained by sending facility.
- Mississippi Med-Com will monitor hospital capacity and capability related to providing care to patients with COVID-19.
- Rotation only applies to transfers originating in Mississippi.



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- Any refusal or deviation from the COVID-19 System of Care will be investigated by MSDH.

Inpatient Medical Capacity, Effective 8/1/2021 through 8/15/2021

To meet the increasing demands of rising COVID-19 hospitalization, all hospitals must delay all:

- Elective surgeries in Tier 1 and 2 (from Appendix) that require overnight hospitalization.
- Given that prolonged delays of some elective surgeries in Tier 2 may lead to adverse consequences, any urgent surgery in Tier 2 that requires overnight hospitalization should have a compelling justification documented in the medical record.

This 28th day of July 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Dobbs", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH
State Health Officer



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Appendix:

Tiers	Action	Definition	Locations	Examples
Tier 1a	Postpone surgery/procedure	Low acuity surgery/healthy patient -outpatient surgery Not life-threatening illness	HOPD* ASC** Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census	-Carpal tunnel release -EGD -Colonoscopy -Cataracts
Tier 1b	Postpone surgery/procedure	Low acuity surgery/unhealthy patient	HOPD ASC Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census	-Endoscopies
Tier 2a	Consider postponing surgery/procedure	Intermediate acuity surgery/healthy patient - Not life threatening but potential for future morbidity and mortality. Requires in-hospital stay	HOPD ASC Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census	-Low risk cancer -Non urgent spine & Ortho: Including hip, knee replacement and elective spine surgery -Stable ureteral colic -Elective angioplasty
Tier 2b	Postpone surgery/procedure if possible	Intermediate acuity surgery/unhealthy patient	HOPD ASC Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census	
Tier 3a	Do not postpone	High acuity surgery/healthy patient	Hospital	-Most cancers -Neurosurgery -Highly symptomatic patients
Tiers 3b	Do not postpone	High acuity surgery/unhealthy patient	Hospital	-Transplants -Trauma -Cardiac w/symptoms -Limb threatening vascular surgery

*Hospital Outpatient Department **Ambulatory Surgery Center

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-elective-surgery-recommendations.pdf>